



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Walter Viegner

Serial No.: 09/200,179

Art Unit: 3677

Filed: November 25, 1998

Examiner: Luu, Tuyet Phuong Pham

For: NON-DETACHABLE PRESS FIT ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN A
FITTING AND AN END PORTION OF A METAL PIPE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

Prior to continued examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Changes to the claims are shown in the mark-up at Attachment A, and a clean copy is provided at Attachment B.

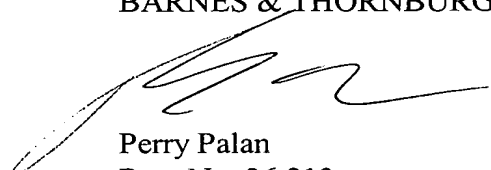
REMARKS

In response to the final Office Action dated June 6, 2002, Claim 1 has been amended and new Claim 22 has been added. Thus, the present application is in condition for allowance and the same is hereby requested.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages in other fees be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg, Deposit Account No. 02-1010 (834/39803).

Respectfully submitted,

BARNES & THORNBURG


Perry Palan
Reg. No. 26,213
(202) 289-1313

Enclosure